

## COMPANY F

Company F, 105th Engineers, previously Company D of the 1st Infantry, N.C.N.G., was organized in Charlotte, N. C., as the "Hornets' Nest Riflemen" in 1858. The company was known by this name until it became a part of the National Guard in 1904, when it became Company D of the 1st N.C.N.G. As the "Hornets' Nest Riflemen" the company made a splendid record in the Civil War with the Confederate Forces, and in 1898 was with the 1st North Carolina Volunteers in the Spanish-American War, in the Army of Occupation. This company had the distinction of being the first American troops to march through the streets of Havana, Cuba. After 1904 the company engaged in the joint maneuvers at Chickamauga Park in 1910; all National Guard encampments until 1916, and was in Federal service on the Mexican Border, 1916-1917. The company was mustered out of the Federal service in February, 1917, and again mustered into the Federal service in August, 1917, and reported with the 1st N.C.N.G. to Camp Sevier. On September 12th the company became Company F of the 105th Engineers.

With the company at the time of the transfer were 1st Lt. W. S. Charles, commanding, and Lt. Morris, assisting.

## THE ENGINEER TRAIN

The 105th Engineer Train, previously Company A of the 1st Infantry, N.C.N.G., was organized at Hickory, N. C., in 1904 as the "Hickory Rifles" and immediately after being organized was accepted into the N.C. N.G. and became Company A of the 1st Infantry, N.C.N.G. As Company A, the company engaged in the joint maneuvers at Chickamauga Park of the National Guard in 1910; attended all National Guard encampments to 1916, and with the regiment was mustered into Federal service and served on the Mexican Border. The company was mustered out of the Federal service in February, 1917. In August, 1917, the company was again mustered into the Federal service and

with the 1st N.C.N.G. reported to Camp Sevier, where on September 12th, 1917, it became the 105th Engineer Train.

With the company at the time of the transfer were Capt. George L. Huffman, commanding; 1st Lt. Frank L. Cline and 2nd Lt. Joseph E. Cilley.

The regiment of engineers thus formed underwent many changes during the month of October. None of the companies when transferred to the 105th Engineers were up to full strength and men from the draft districts of North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee were assigned to the organization in sufficient numbers to give the regiment its full complement of men.

The majority of the officers which had been sent to the regiment with the 1st Battalion, 1st N.C.N.G. Infantry, were transferred back to the infantry and officers from the Engineer Officers Reserve Corps were assigned to fill these and other vacancies that existed.

## TRAINING

Immediately upon the formation of the regiment, September 12th, 1917, intensive training in infantry and engineering work was begun under the command and direction of Colonel Harley B. Ferguson and the able assistance of Major (now Colonel) Joseph Hyde Pratt.

Until May 18th, 1918, this training was continued, with the exception of possibly one week when the thermometer was so low that outside work was impracticable. The regiment and the Engineer Train received their full equipment and were able to train in all branches of the work without hindrance. A great deal of work was done in preparing training grounds, rifle ranges, lakes and trenches, which proved to be a most valuable method for obtaining results in training which in general consisted of:

The laying out and construction of trenches and trench systems.